

First Congregational United Church of Christ

March 12, 2023



“Photina”

Third Sunday in Lent

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Ben Nichols

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Ann Russ

Liturgist: KathyAnn Travis

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (Based upon Psalm 95)

People who drink water: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

People who conserve water: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are God's also.

People who protect water: The sea is God, for God made it, and dry land, which God's hands have formed.

People who swim, boat, and fish: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! We are God's, the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

Opening Hymn #84 This is the Day

1. This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made,
that our God has made;
we will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
This is the day that our God has made.
2. This is the day, this is the day
Jesus rose again,
Jesus rose again,
we will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day Jesus rose again;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day Jesus rose again.
3. This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came
when the Spirit came;
we will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day when the Spirt came;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day when the Spirt came.

Words of Lament

Merciful God, we lament the divisions that still separate us in this world. We focus too much on identity whether it be religion, nationality, skin color, gender-identity, or sexuality. You call us to love our neighbors, not be a part of a certain group. Call the world to account, O LORD, that it is our behaviors, our actions, and our words that truly harm, not who we are or how we are categorized. Help all humans to focus on the content of our character and treat others with mercy. Amen.

Time of Silence

Words for Blessing the Earth (Blessing used for the water of baptism)

One: We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape or form, your Spirit moved over the waters.

Many: Out of waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning.

All: In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

One: In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb.

Many: Jesus was baptized in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well,

All: Washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize by water and the Holy Spirit.

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

‘Looking-Glass River’.
By Robert Louis Stevenson,

Smooth it glides upon its travel,
Here a wimple, there a gleam –
 O the clean gravel!
 O the smooth stream!
Sailing blossoms, silver fishes,
Pave pools as clear as air –
 How a child wishes

To live down there!
We can see our colored faces
Floating on the shaken pool
Down in cool places,
Dim and very cool;
Till a wind or water wrinkle,
Dipping marten, plumping trout,
Spreads in a twinkle
And blots all out ...

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture John 4:5-42

Liturgist

⁵ He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." ⁸ His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food. ⁹ The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.) ¹⁰ Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water."

¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water?" ¹² You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!" ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, get your husband, and come back here." ¹⁷ The woman replied, "I don't have a husband." "You are right to say, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus answered. ¹⁸ "You've had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn't your husband. You've spoken the truth."

¹⁹ The woman said, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem."

Pastor

²¹ Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You and your people worship what you don’t know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming—and is here! —when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. The Father looks for those who worship him this way. ²⁴ God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I Am—the one who speaks with you.”^l

²⁷ Just then, Jesus’ disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸ The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who has told me everything I’ve done! Could this man be the Christ?” ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus.

³¹ In the meantime the disciples spoke to Jesus, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” ³² Jesus said to them, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.” ³³ The disciples asked each other, “Has someone brought him food?”

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “I am fed by doing the will of the one who sent me and by completing his work. ³⁵ Don’t you have a saying, ‘Four more months and then it’s time for harvest’? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. ³⁶ Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together. ³⁷ This is a true saying, that one sows and another harvests. ³⁸ I have sent you to harvest what you didn’t work hard for; others worked hard, and you will share in their hard work.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman’s word when she testified, “He told me everything I’ve ever done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of his word, ⁴² and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world.”

Children’s Message Woman at the Well

Choir Anthem “Jesus Gave Me Water”

Message Living Water

Musical Reflections

Communion Hymn #330 Let Us Break Bread Together

1. Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]

3. Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]

Communion

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Mother God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Our Time of Giving

Doxology (Red Book # 357)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Alleluia, alleluia

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Closing Hymn When We are Singing (SEE NEXT PAGE)

Benediction

Sending Music

38. We Walk in Love

Words by Deanna Witkowski and Lemuel Colon

Music by Deanna Witkowski

New York, NY | 2017

Gospel 3 feel (♩ = 104)

C7sus F Gm/F F Gm7

1. We walk in love u - nit - ed in pur - pose. We
 2. We cry for peace and rights for all peo - ple. We
 3. We dream a world of jus - tice and kind - ness. We

A7 Dm7 G7sus G7 C7sus

join our hands and lift up one voice. We
 wel - come friends from far — and near. We
 build a bridge cre - at - ing new paths. We

Bm7(b5) Bbm6 F/C F

speak the truth with strength and com - pas - sion re -
 fight for those whose voic - es are si - lenced, re -
 march with joy as all walk to - geth - er. Em -

Gm F/A Gm/Bb F/C C7sus C7 F

sound - ing with hope, with cour - age and joy.
 sist - ing in faith un - til all are free.
 brac - ing each one, we bold - ly stand.

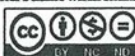
Performance Suggestion:
 • Step on beat 1, Clap beats 2 & 3.

Deanna writes: "After writing the tune, I looked at 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' as a starting point in creating a list of positive key words to include in the lyrics."

Made Possible by Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

Justice Choir Songbook, Volume 1

Always include songwriter's name when sharing. PDF: Songs.justicechoir.org/WeWalk



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST: Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Gwen Dornfeld, Sally Dunn, Bob and Helen Carter, Countries of Ukraine, Turkey and Syria
Shut-ins and Care Center: Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes, Nancy Cihlar
Tom Hedstrom

MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2023 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2023, showing a need for a yearly income of \$164,110.00.
After ten weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$30,501.57.
The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$41,697.65.

Thank you for your Support!
Kevin LeVoir, Treasurer

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

10:00 AM - Tai Chi

12:00 PM- Women's AA

2:00-6:00PM - Piano Lessons

2:00 PM-WTIP interview for Rooted & Rising Raised Garden Beds

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

7:00AM - AA (FS)

8:00AM - Harbor Watch

2:00-6:00PM - Piano Lessons

4:30PM - Cook County Chaplains

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

9:30AM-2:30PM - Piano Lessons

10:30AM - Surely Discipleship Group

** **Daylight Savings Time Begins!! Spring Forward!!**

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

9:00 AM - Sunday School on [Zoom](#)

9:30 AM – Choir Practice

10:30 AM- Worship Service **Inside** AND ON [ZOOM](#), **3rd Sunday in Lent**, during this Sunday, we cover most of chapter 4 in sharing the story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well. In this story, we have many boundaries that are crossed with the “Messiah” being alone with a foreign woman, a woman who has ‘had’ many husbands and currently cohabitating with a man, and Samaritans believing a woman they shun.

2:00 PM - Worship at Care Center

3:30 PM - Ecclesiastical Council for Ordination Candidate Nathan Holst at Peace,
UCC

MONDAY, MARCH 13

3:00PM-5:00PM - Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL)

6:00PM - Earth Day Fair Planning

7:00PM - ALANON

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

10:30 AM - Small Church Collective

2:00-6:00PM - Piano Lessons

7:00PM - Zen Meditation (LL)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

10:00 AM- Ministerial Lectionary Study

2:00-6:00PM -Piano Lessons

3:30 PM- Rooted and Rising Book Study: Inhabiting Eden

5:15 PM- Pizza and Social Justice

6:00 PM -Lentin Service in Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

9:15 AM - Chaplains Meeting

10:00AM - Tai Chi

12:00PM- Women's AA

2:00-6:00PM - Piano Lessons

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

7:00AM - AA (FS)

8:00AM - Harbor Watch

2:00-6:00PM - Piano Lessons

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

9:30 AM - Coffee at Java Moose with Circle Song Leader

9:30AM-2:30PM -Piano Lessons 10:30

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

9:00 AM - NO Sunday School - Practice for Reader's Theater

9:30 AM – Choir Practice

10:30 AM - Worship Service - *Inside* AND ON [ZOOM](#), **4th Sunday in Lent**, time for another Reader's Theater! We will be looking for 6 narrators and 8 actors (at least) to walk through the story of Jesus healing a blind man and causing all sorts of drama by the local religious authorities demanding to know who healed him and sinned by working on the Sabbath. The parents are dragged in and they are afraid so they throw their son under the caravan...

